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A Documentary History of American Industrial Society. Volumes III and IV. Labor Conspiracy Cases, 1806-1842. Selected, Collated, and Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS, and EUGENE A. GILMORE. (Cleveland, Ohio: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1910. Pp. 385, 343. Price, for set of ten volumes, \$50.)

With the publication of volumes III and IV of *A Documentary History of American Industrial Society* that part of the work dealing with the history of labor and the labor movement in the United States begins its appearance. The two volumes under review deal with labor conspiracy cases, and the next six will cover the labor movement from 1820 to 1880. The plan of these two volumes is necessarily very different from that of the two initial volumes on Plantation and Frontier, edited by Prof. U. B. Phillips, which contained a very large number of short extracts drawn from the most varied and scattered sources. "Volumes III and IV," say the editors in the preface, "are intended to place in the hands of students of industrial and legal history all of the reports on labor conspiracy cases in the United States during the period ending with the notable decision of Justice Shaw of Massachusetts in *Commonwealth v. Hunt*, 1842." These volumes constitute therefore practically a complete reprint of six of the most important cases which are not readily accessible elsewhere; they are: Philadelphia Cordwainers, 1806; New York Cordwainers, 1810; Pittsburg Cordwainers, 1815; Twenty-four Journeymen Tailors, 1827; Hudson Shoemakers, 1836; Twenty Journeymen Tailors, 1836. A brief description is given of seven other cases concerning which no full report could be found, namely, Baltimore Cordwainers, 1806; Buffalo Tailors, 1824; Philadelphia Spinners, 1829; Baltimore Weavers, 1829; Chambersburg Shoemakers, 1829; Thompsonville Carpet Weavers, 1834-36; Philadelphia Plasterers, 1836. Four other cases are given by title only, as they are generally accessible in law libraries; these are: Master Ladies Shoemakers, 1821; New York Hatters, 1823; Geneva Shoemakers, 1835; *Commonwealth v. Hunt*, 1840, 1842.

All the early labor conspiracy cases in the United States are now therefore made accessible to students of American industrial history and of the labor movement in particular, and for this service all must acknowledge their indebtedness to Professor Commons

and his associates. After a careful search of records Commons comes to the conclusion that the Philadelphia Cordwainers' case of 1806, printed practically in full in volume III, is the first trial of wage-earners as such for trade-union conspiracy in the United States. This, like the subsequent cases, turned upon the endeavor of the workers to introduce the principle of the "closed shop," that is of refusing to work with non-union men, and the resistance of the employers to this demand.

In a most enlightening introduction, most of which had however already been printed in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for November, 1909, under the title, American Shoemakers—A Sketch of Industrial Evolution, 1648–1895, Commons traces the various industrial stages which have existed in the United States from the guild to the factory, and develops a theory of industrial evolution in the United States. As nine of the seventeen trials for conspiracy occurred in the shoemakers' trade, he has selected this as "interpretative" of American industrial history, though it is probably not altogether typical. The economic changes that were introduced into this trade by the extension of the market, the resulting organization of the business, the divergence of the interests of journeymen and masters, the efforts of the former by "turn-outs" to avert the effects of the wider and less skilled competition that continually threatened their standard of living and of work, and the resistance of the latter culminating in the trials of the striking journeymen for conspiracy—all these are clearly brought out in a careful analysis of the documents.

By the publication of these volumes the study of the labor movement in the United States has at once been placed upon a distinctly higher plane than before, and the efforts of earlier writers to find in this country merely a repetition of occurrences in Great Britain or Continental Europe is shown to be misguided. In the boot and shoe trade, at least, Commons shows that the struggle between capital and labor occurred not as a result of changes in tools or methods of production, but directly as a result of changes in markets. It was not until after the Civil War that invention in the technical processes of industry came to have profound effects. The Marxian explanation of industrial development as a result of changes in the technique of production is thus shown to be inapplicable to events in the United States. To understand the eco-

conomic development of this country one must approach it with a thoroughly unbiased mind and study the working of the factors in an environment different from any that the world had experienced up to that time. The great merit of Commons's contribution to the study of the labor movement lies just in this objective attitude, which permits him to interpret the documents justly and ably. We have for the first time an adequate picture of the changes in industry correlated with the labor movement in its narrower aspect. However, the success with which this is carried out will be better shown in the subsequent volumes; the two under review deal rather with the struggles between labor and the growing power of capital, and the long-continued, difficult, and often painful progress of readjustment that was taking place in the position of labor. The worker was being transformed from a more or less independent journeyman artisan to a capitalless wage laborer.

The documents presented contain much material of value to the economic historian and throw a clear light upon the industrial changes that were taking place during the first few decades of the nineteenth century.

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Social and Industrial Conditions in the North During the Civil War. By EMERSON DAVID FITE. Assistant Professor of History in Yale University. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1910. Pp. viii, 318. \$2.)

It is refreshing to find historians beginning to realize the importance of economic factors in American history. For no period of our national life has attention been so exclusively fastened on the military and political events as for that of the Civil War. It is striking therefore that one of our younger historians should select this particular period in which to portray the social and industrial development of the nation. Actually, as Professor Fite shows conclusively, the fact of war interfered very little with the economic expansion of the North and in some respects even stimulated it. Indeed, one almost has the impression, after reading this book that the North during the period 1861 to 1865 was but